

REMARKS

By the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1, 13, 14, 20, 23 and 24 are amended. Entry of the Amendment, and favorable consideration thereof, is earnestly requested. Claims 2, 3, 7, 11 and 12 having been previously cancelled, Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 13-31 are currently pending.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his courtesy extended during the personal interview that took place on September 21, 2006. Applicant has reviewed the contents of the Examiner's Interview Summary and hereby adopts the Examiner's statement of the Substance of the Interview.

As proposed during the Interview, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 13, 14, 20, 23 and 24, the only independent claims, in order to better structurally define over the prior art.

Claims 1, 13, 14, 20, 23 and 24 have been amended to require that the end edges of each of two respective side drops abut one another and are permanently joined together to define corners to hold the table cover on the tabletop. This is unlike those references, such as U.S. Patent No. 3,557,856 to Berman and U.S. Patent No. 1,535,895 to Blackmore (the main references cited as part of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection in the outstanding Office Action), which rely on some temporary attachment mechanism, such as snaps or overlying portions with adhesives applied thereto, for attachment of the side portions to one another. In fact, Applicant respectfully submits that references such as Berman and Blackmore explicitly teach against the incorporation of a permanent attachment of abutting ends of the side portions, as the temporary attachment is taught as a desirable feature, for example, to allow for attachment to tables of different sizes (e.g., by providing multiple spaced-apart snap fastener elements as taught by

Berman) or to allow the table cover to essentially be “assembled” as it is being installed on a table (e.g., by providing adhesive tabs which overlie and attached to adjacent side portions *after* the cover is placed on a table).

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims, namely Claims 1, 4-6, 8-10 and 13-31, are patentable over the references of record, and earnestly solicits allowance of the same. If the Examiner believes that the above Amendments are insufficient to overcome the outstanding rejections, Applicant invites the Examiner to telephone the undersigned to discuss possible further amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



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